

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1 1. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using data included within an Aspect file, said system comprising a non-SAP bridge program  
3 adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the  
4 Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 5. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said system comprising a non-  
3 SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data derived from a  
4 dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system, said dataset  
5 having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a portion of the dataset  
6 with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field,  
7 wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field  
8 stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to cause the rollup  
2 records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1 7. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 8. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 9. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to generate a trace file  
2 that includes a representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a  
3 portion of the dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1 10. The system of claim 5, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 11. The system of claim 5, wherein the bridge program is further adapted to identify select  
2 records of the dataset in accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, and  
3 wherein the portion of the dataset includes the select records so identified.

1 12. The system of claim 11, wherein to identify the select records includes to accept as input a  
2 first date and a second date, wherein the first date is earlier than the second date, and wherein the  
3 selection rules do not permit identifying as a select record any record of the dataset having an  
4 effective date that is earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1 13. The system of claim 5, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table, a  
2 spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1 14. The system of claim 5, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the rollup  
2 records include the procurement data.

1 15. The system of claim 14, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting  
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 16. A system for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using and combining data included within N Aspect files  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N$  respectively having  
3 rollup records  $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ , said N at least 2, said system comprising at least one non-SAP  
4 bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect files through use of data derived  
5 from select records  $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$  of N datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$ , respectively, and to transmit  
6 the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said select records  $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$   
7 having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect files comprises, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ ,  
8 and N:

9 to identify the select records  $[S]_i$  in accordance with selection rules applied to  $D_i$ ; and  
10 to roll up the select records  $[S]_i$  with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup  
11 records  $[R]_i$  corresponding to  $[S]_i$  have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field  
12 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records  $[S]_i$ , and wherein the quantity field stores the  
13 number of select records of  $[S]_i$  that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted  
2 dataset.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the N  
2 datasets have different formats.

1 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$  have formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$ ,  
2 respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N$   
3 respectively keyed to the formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$  for respectively generating the Aspect files  $A_1, A_2,$   
4  $\dots, A_N$ .

1 21. The system of claim 16, wherein the datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$  have formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$ ,  
2 respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having  
3 logical paths  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N$  respectively keyed to the formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$  for respectively  
4 generating the Aspect files  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N$ .

1 22. The system of claim 16, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1 23. The system of claim 16, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 24. The system of claim 16, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the  
2 rollup records  $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$  include the procurement data.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting  
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.

1 26. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using data included within an Aspect file, said method comprising executing a non-SAP bridge  
3 program, said executing including:  
4 generating the Aspect file through use of data derived from a dataset; and  
5 transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 28. The method of claim 26, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 29. The method of claim 26, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 30. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said method comprising:  
3 providing a dataset having a keygroup; and  
4 executing a non-SAP bridge program, including generating the Aspect file, said  
5 generating comprising rolling up a portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein  
6 each rollup record has a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup  
7 keyvalue of the keygroup, and wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that  
8 have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 31. The method of claim 30, wherein generating the Aspect file includes causing the rollup  
2 records in the generated Aspect file to be sorted with respect to the keygroup.

1 32. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a non-SAP-formatted dataset.

1 33. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 34. The method of claim 30, further comprising generating a trace file that includes a  
2 representative rollup keyvalue of the keygroup and a pointer that points to a portion of the  
3 dataset, said portion being correlated with the representative rollup keyvalue.

1 35. The method of claim 30, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 36. The method of claim 30, further comprising identifying select records of the dataset in  
2 accordance with at least one selection rule applied to the dataset, said portion of the dataset  
3 including the select records so identified.

1 37. The method of claim 36, said identifying including accepting as input a first date and a  
2 second date, said first date earlier than said second date, said selection rules not permitting said  
3 identifying to identify as a select record any record of the dataset having an effective date that is  
4 earlier than the first date or later than the second date.

1 38. The method of claim 30, wherein the dataset is selected from the group consisting of a table,  
2 a spreadsheet, and a combination thereof.

1 39. The method of claim 30, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the  
2 rollup records include the procurement data.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting  
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.



1 41. The method of claim 30, further comprising:  
2 transmitting the Aspect file to the SAP business information system where the Aspect file  
3 becomes a Temp file having the rollup records;  
4 making a query to sum over the quantity field for a subset of the rollup records of the  
5 Temp file, wherein the subset is determined by the query, and wherein the query is adapted to  
6 being executed by a SAP module in the SAP computing environment; and  
7 executing the query by the SAP module including returning a result of the query.

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1 42. A method for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP business information system  
2 using and combining data included within N Aspect files  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N$  respectively having  
3 rollup records  $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ , said N at least 2, said method comprising providing N datasets  
4  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$  having a common keygroup, and for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , and N executing a non-SAP  
5 bridge program, including:

6 identifying select records  $[S]_i$  of the dataset  $D_i$ , said identifying in accordance with  
7 selection rules applied to  $D_i$ ; and

8 rolling up the select records  $[S]_i$  with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup  
9 records  $[R]_i$  corresponding to  $[S]_i$  have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field  
10 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records  $[S]_i$ , and wherein the quantity field stores the  
11 number of select records of  $[S]_i$  that have the same rollup keyvalue.

1 43. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a non-SAP-formatted  
2 dataset.

1 44. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets is a SAP-formatted dataset.

1 45. The method of claim 42, wherein a first dataset of the N datasets and a second dataset of the  
2 N datasets have different formats.

1 46. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$  have formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$ ,  
2 respectively, wherein the at least one bridge program comprises N bridge programs  $P_1, P_2, \dots, P_N$   
3 respectively keyed to the formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$  for respectively generating the Aspect files  $A_1, A_2,$   
4  $\dots, A_N$ .

1 47. The method of claim 42, wherein the datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_N$  have formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$ ,  
2 respectively, and wherein the at least one bridge program consists of one bridge program having  
3 logical paths  $L_1, L_2, \dots, L_N$  respectively keyed to the formats  $F_1, F_2, \dots, F_N$  for respectively  
4 generating the Aspect files  $A_1, A_2, \dots, A_N$ .

1 48. The method of claim 42, wherein the selection rules are the same for each of the N datasets.

1 49. The method of claim 42, wherein the SAP business information system comprises an SAP  
2 Executive Information System (EIS).

1 50. The method of claim 42, wherein the report relates to procurement data, and wherein the  
2 rollup records  $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$  include the procurement data.

1 51. The method of claim 50, wherein the procurement data is selected from the group consisting  
2 of purchase order data, invoice data, and a combination thereof.



1 53. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer  
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP  
3 business information system using data included within an Aspect file, said program code  
4 comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through use of data  
5 derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information system.

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1 54. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer  
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP  
3 business information system using data included within an Aspect file having rollup records, said  
4 program code comprising a non-SAP bridge program adapted to generate the Aspect file through  
5 use of data derived from a dataset and to transmit the Aspect file to the SAP business information  
6 system, said dataset having a keygroup, wherein to generate the Aspect file includes to roll up a  
7 portion of the dataset with respect to the keygroup, wherein each rollup record has a rollup field  
8 and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field stores a rollup keyvalue of the keygroup, and  
9 wherein the quantity field stores the number of dataset records that have the same rollup  
10 keyvalue.

1 55. A computer program product, comprising a computer usable medium having a computer  
2 readable program code embodied therein for generating a report by a reporting tool of a SAP  
3 business information system using and combining data included within N Aspect files  $A_1, A_2, \dots,$   
4  $A_N$  respectively having rollup records  $[R]_1, [R]_2, \dots, [R]_N$ , said N at least 2, said program code  
5 comprising at least one non-SAP bridge program adapted to respectively generate the N Aspect  
6 files through use of data derived from select records  $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$  of N datasets  $D_1, D_2, \dots,$   
7  $D_N$ , respectively, and to transmit the N Aspect files to the SAP business information system, said  
8 select records  $[S]_1, [S]_2, \dots, [S]_N$  having a common keygroup, wherein to generate the N Aspect  
9 files comprises, for  $i = 1, 2, \dots,$  and N:

10 to identify the select records  $[S]_i$  in accordance with selection rules applied to  $D_i$ ; and

11 to roll up the select records  $[S]_i$  with respect to the common keygroup, wherein the rollup  
12 records  $[R]_i$  corresponding to  $[S]_i$  have a rollup field and a quantity field, wherein the rollup field  
13 stores a rollup keyvalue of the select records  $[S]_i$ , and wherein the quantity field stores the  
14 number of select records of  $[S]_i$  that have the same rollup keyvalue.